

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, February 17, 2010, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Edwin Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Dr. Ambrose Anoruo (representing Steven L. Ditmer)
G. Ray Staats	Velda Jones- Potter, State Treasurer
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.	

Absent: Lyn Davenport, Kevin Coyle and Allen Messick, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: Michael Parkowski, Esq.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m. with prayer.

Chairman Garey introduced Dr. Ambrose Anoruo who will be sitting in for Mr. Steven Ditmer, Chairman of the Governor's Council on Forestry.

I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 1,034 farms in preservation districts totaling 150,285 acres, with a total of 564 farms under agricultural easements totaling 93,935 acres at a cost of \$158,134,141. For PDR 15 there are a total of 54 farms, comprising 3,985 acres, with a value of \$52,263,437. For PDR 16, there are a total of 26 farms, comprising 2,435 acres, with a value of \$33,895,414. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 34 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,506 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 871 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804.

II. District Final Approval:

1. William & Janet Wells District, ID#K-09-11-256. After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to accept for final approval the William & Janet Wells District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

III. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. PresBess KaJo Expansion of the White Marsh District, ID#K-09-10-064G. After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the PresBess KaJo Expansion of the White Marsh District, seconded by Velda Jones-Potter. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Beachy Farms Expansion of the Bobola-Voshell's Cove District, ID#K-09-12-163H. After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Beachy Farms Expansion of the Bobola-Voshell's Cove District, seconded by Velda Jones-Potter. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. Stanton's Corner Expansion of the Ivan Alexander District, ID#K-09-12-252B. After discussion, **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Stanton's Corner Expansion of the Ivan Alexander District, seconded by Ray Staats. Motion unanimously approved.**

4. RC Farm Expansion of the Elmer-Wink Vanderwende District, ID#S-09-12-149J. After discussion, **Ray Staats moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the RC Farm Expansion of the Elmer-Wink Vanderwende District, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

5. Blacksmith Shop Expansion of the Wild & Free District, ID#S-09-10-218B. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Blacksmith Shop Expansion of the Wild & Free District, seconded by Velda Jones-Potter. Motion unanimously approved.**

IV. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto – Secretary Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above District and Expansions.

V. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

VI. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the January 20, 2009, minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the January minutes, seconded by Velda Jones-Potter. Motion unanimously approved.**

VII. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick then presented the Financial Statement for the month of January 2010, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of January 31, 2010, \$240,609.95 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. We received \$56,814.20 from rollback taxes and \$222.00 interest income. Expenditures for the month of January totaled \$39,973.91. After discussion, **Ray Staats moved to approve the January 2010 financial statement as presented, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

Chairman Garey asked that the Counties pay rollback taxes in a timelier manner and instructed the staff to remind the Counties to report rollbacks and pay every quarter.

VIII. Executive Session – Mr. Parkowski indicated that there was a need for an executive session. **Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.** The Executive Session started at 9:11 a.m.

The Executive Session ended at 9:25 a.m. **Motion to end the Executive Session was made by William Vanderwende, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Other Business:

1. Ms. Jenifer Christman - Ducks Unlimited

Ms. Christman could not be present; however, Michael Parkowski explained that Ducks Unlimited was looking for ways to partner with the Foundation to preserve land under a preservation easement.

2. Wilson Farm

Mr. Scott Blaier reported to the Foundation on the Wilson Farm lease. This lease will be mailed today and later there will be a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Magee and Michael McGrath and Scott Blaier.

3. Monitoring

Mr. Milton Melendez informed the Board that monitoring has been progressing at the expected pace and the status of the monitoring effort is successful. Selection for properties to be monitored is based on zones, of which 50% of properties will be monitored, with 10% done by staff as a control. All property owners receive prior notification that their property will be monitored.

4. Appraisals

Robin West stated that 110 appraisals are being sent out and interviews are being arranged. More letters will be sent out, about sixty, to see if more landowners wish to be appraised. Michael Parkowski mentioned that the tax break is now 30% for five years.

Cathy Mesick reminded the Board that there will be a Joint Finance Committee Hearing on February 24th starting at 4:00 p.m.

X. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on March 17, 2010 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Vanderwende.
Vice Chairman